

IN THE CLAIMS:



Please cancel claims 5 and 10 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1, 6 and 8 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) An article assembly comprising:

a) an article having a receivable end.

and

b) a stand in the shape of first and second feet,
each of said first and second feet being elongated
to define a toe end and together a common heel end,
said first and second feet being joined together and
positioned together to form a continuous bottom
supporting surface, said heel end of each of said
first and second feet being positioned together
to form a single heel portion, said single heel
portion including a recess extending through a
topside thereof and towards a sole thereof
for selectively receiving said receivable end
of said article therein, thereby retaining said
article when said stand is placed on a horizontal
surface, said first and second feet each including
a side surface, said side surfaces intersecting
one another in a common [plain] plane.

RECEIVED
SEP - 6 2001
TC 1700

5

B2
5.

An article assembly comprising:

A stand in the shape of first and second feet, each of said first and second feet being elongated to define a toe end and together a common heel end, said first and second feet being joined together and positioned together to form a continuous bottom supporting surface, said heel end of each of said first and second feet being positioned together to form a single heel portion, said single heel portion including a recess extending through a topside thereof and towards a sole thereof, said first and second feet including a side surface, said side surfaces intersecting one another in a common plane.

B3
7-8.

The article assembly as claimed in claim 7, wherein said base includes a recess extending therethrough and in alignment with said recess in said stand.

6. (Amended) An article assembly comprising:

A stand in the shape of first and second feet, each of said first and second feet being elongated to define a toe end and together a common heel end, said first and second feet being joined together and positioned together to form a continuous bottom supporting surface, said heel end of each of said first and second feet being positioned together to form a single heel portion, said single heel portion including a recess extending through a topside thereof and towards a sole thereof, said first and second feet including a side surface, said side surfaces intersecting one another in a common [plain] plane.

8. (Amended) The article assembly as claimed in claim 7, wherein said base includes a recess extending therethrough and in alignment with said recess in said stand.